

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended)      **Method A method** for the production of cast steel strip (B), wherein, in a continuous procedure[[,]] comprises casting a steel melt is cast into a casting gap (4), the having longitudinal sides of which are formed by walls that move during the casting process, to form the steel strip [[(B)]], and holding the steel melt, which is present above the casting gap [[(4)]] in a melt pool [[(6)]], is held under an atmosphere [[(A)]] containing nitrogen and hydrogen, characterised in that wherein the hydrogen content of the atmosphere [[(A)]] is greater than 0 mol % to 10 mol %, and the Cr, Mo, Nb, Si, Ti, Ni, Mn, C or N contents of the cast steel melt, which are selectively present in each case for adjusting the characteristics of the steel strip [[(B)]], are in each case selected in such a way that for the ratio  $Cr_{eq}/Ni_{eq}$  formed from the Cr equivalent  $Cr_{eq}$  and the Ni equivalent  $Ni_{eq}$ , the following applies:

$$Cr_{eq}/Ni_{eq} \geq 1.7,$$

wherein       $Cr_{eq} = \%Cr + 1.37 \%Mo + 2 \%Nb + 1.5 \%Si + 3 \%Ti$ ,  
 $Ni_{eq} = \%Ni + 0.31 \%Mn + 22 \%C + 14 \%N + \%Cu$ ,  
 $\%Cr$  = respective Cr content,  
 $\%Mo$  = respective Mo content,  
 $\%Nb$  = respective Nb content,  
 $\%Si$  = respective Si content,  
 $\%Ti$  = respective Ti content,  
 $\%Ni$  = respective Ni content,  
 $\%Mn$  = respective Mn content,  
 $\%C$  = respective C content,  
 $\%N$  = respective N content.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended)      Method The method according to Claim claim 1, wherein characterised in that the casting gap [[(4)]] is formed between two casting rollers [[(2, 3)]], which rotate in opposite directions, are cooled during the casting operation and delimit the longitudinal sides of the casting gap [[(4)]].

Claim 3 (Currently Amended)      Method The method according to claim 1 either one of the preceding claims, wherein characterised in that the hydrogen content of the atmosphere [[(A)]] is at least 0.5 mol %.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended)      Method The method according to claim 1 any one of the preceding claims, wherein characterised in that the hydrogen content of the atmosphere [[(A)]] is no greater than 7.5 mol %.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended)      Method The method according to claim 1 any one of the preceding claims, wherein characterised in that the atmosphere [[(A)]] additionally contains a noble gas.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended)      Method The method according to Claim claim 5, wherein characterised in that the noble gas is argon.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended)      Method The method according to claim 1 any one of the preceding claims, wherein characterised in that the nitrogen content of the atmosphere [[(A)]] is at least 30 mol %.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended)      Method The method according to claim 1 any one of the preceding claims, wherein characterised in that for the ratio  $\text{Cr}_{\text{eq}}/\text{Ni}_{\text{eq}}$ , the following applies:  $\text{Cr}_{\text{eq}}/\text{Ni}_{\text{eq}} \geq 1.8$ .

Claim 9 (Currently Amended)      Method The method according to any one of Claims 2 to 8 claim 2, wherein characterised in that the casting rollers (2, 3) have a stochastic unevenness distribution.